

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are pending. Claims 1-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,457,747 to Drexler et al. in view of Mark Rehtin (Fingerprint Technology Makes for Best ID System).

Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is added. The rejections are traversed. Claims 1-67 remain in the case for consideration.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On February 5, 2004, the undersigned held a telephonic interview with Examiner Backer. All the claims were discussed in general, with specific reference to claims 1, 17, 49, and 66-67. No agreement was reached.

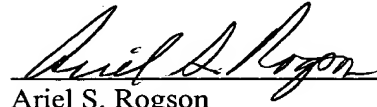
In the interview, the undersigned pointed out that the amendments made in the Response to Office Action dated April 9, 2003, did not necessitate the new grounds for rejection by the Examiner. The amendments did not narrow the claims (and in fact, broadened the claims), and so the Examiner's decision to change the grounds of rejection was his own choice. In addition, the undersigned pointed out that the Examiner has yet to make a specific rejection of any of the dependent claims 2-31 and 33-67. The Examiner argued that the dependent claims disclosed the same inventive concept as the independent claims 1 and 32, and therefore were rejected on the same grounds as the independent claims. The undersigned pointed out that the dependent claims include new features not described in the independent claims, and therefore merit specific rejection.

For these reasons, the undersigned requested that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action dated November 10, 2003. In addition, the undersigned believes that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record, for the reasons described in the Responses to the Office Action filed August 9, 2003, and January 26, 2004.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of finality and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-67 of the application as amended are solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Ariel S. Rogson
Reg. No. 43,054

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 222-3613
Customer No. 20575

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS
MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO:

☐ COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
AND TRADEMARKS WASHINGTON
D.C. 20231

☒ MAIL STOP AF
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

☐ BOX
COMMISSIONER
FOR TRADEMARKS 2900 CRYSTAL
DRIVE ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3513

ON: 10 Feb 2004
